## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 IO-13 COME-00 TRSE-00 /048 W ------019373 291019Z/14

R 290707Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651 INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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PASS USDA

PASS AID/ASIA/BIS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID EAGR BG

SUBJECT: \$10 MILLION SAUDI GRANT TO BANGLADESH

- 1. SAUDI ARABIA HAS GIVEN BANGLADESH A U.S. 10 MILLION DOLLARS GRANT. ACCORDING TO MARCH 24 PRESS REPORTS, THE GRANT WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE FOODGRAIN. THE GRANT WAS MADE AT THE INSTANCE OF KING KHALID AND WAS PRESENTED TO BDG PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER FOR FOOD A.M. KHAN ON MARCH 23 BY FAUD ABDEL HAMED AL-KHATIB, THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH. THE GRANT COINCIDED WITH THE BEGINNING OF "KING FAISAL WEEK" IN DACCA ON MARCH 23 WHICH COMMEMORATES THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF KING FAISAL.
- 2. FOOD SECRETARY L.R. KHAN TOLD USAID DIRECTOR MARCH 24 THAT CONTRARY TO THE PRESS REPORTS, THE SAUDI GRANT IS NOT TIED TO PURCHASE OF FOODGRAIN AND SHOULD NOT BE USED IN ESTIMATING THE GOVERNMENT'S FOODGRAIN STOCK POSITION IN THE COMING MONTHS. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO USE THE GRANT FOR FOOD AND THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANGLADESH BANK HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO USE THE FUNDS FOR GENERAL COMMODITY PROCUREMENT. SCHNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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Subject: \$10 MILLION SAUDI GRANT TO BANGLADESH

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